

REMARKS

Claim 1 of 20 May 2009 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on US 5 536 998 (to Sica) in view of US 2 791 679 (to Hierholzer).

Reconsideration of the relevance of Hierholzer in this rejection is respectfully requested based on the following analysis:

Sica does show the use of adhesive material (24) between the collar 20 and the protective tube 16. Sica does not show radial lugs distributed around the circumference of said axial spacer, against which the end of the outer tube abuts, adhesive filler material being disposed in the spaces between said radial lugs and joining said spacer, end cap and outer tube to each other in order to make easier the assembly of the outer tube and the end cap when assembling the fluorescent lamp. Nor, it now is submitted, does Hierholzer, which only shows a non-conducting body 18 with indentations 31 for dents 32 in the ferrule 27 to snap into and prevent relative rotation. There is no adhesive material there, much less disposed between lugs to hold the components together as in the claimed invention. Indeed, the Hierhozer design is encumbered with exactly those disadvantages which the present invention is designed to overcome. The Hierholz design requires ferrules, snap rings 31 and even a clamp ring 29 to hold all the components together. Hierholz would provide no guidance in reaching the claimed lamp, which is exceptionally easy to assemble.

We would maintain the arguments presented in the previous response regarding the non-obvious advantages of the present invention over previously cited prior art .

In the event there are any questions concerning the application, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

No additional fees beyond the extension fee are believed to be due at this time. However, if necessary to effect a timely response, the Commissioner is authorised to deduct the necessary fees from Deposit account No. 501249.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 25 August 2010